

weren't going out hunting like they used to or even sport shooting. So they had to create a new craving, a new appetite for a weapon. They needed to attract a new customer to new sorts of weapons. So they created ads like these, equating freedom and independence with these little killing machines.

It gets worse. Here is an ad for a new assault rifle that came out this year. The AR-15 is the weapon of choice, as I mentioned, for mass shootings. This is an ad for a JR-15, a junior AR-15. It is manufactured by Wee 1 Tactical. I am sorry to say it is an Illinois company. It is like an AR-15, but it is designed for kids—20 percent smaller and lighter. It is designed for children under the age of 18.

Look at the logos in this ad and look closely. They are the same logos that are imprinted on the weapon. They show these skulls of children with pacifiers in their mouths. You will find that same symbol on the gun that they sell.

Today, the tobacco companies are creating vaping products with flavors like cotton candy and gummy bears to hook kids on nicotine. This gun manufacturer uses cartoon skulls sucking on pacifiers to try to hook children on using military-style assault weapons. Those weapons belong not at towns like Highland Park but on the battlefield—not in our communities and certainly not in the hands of children.

Current Federal law affords the firearms industry broad and unjustifiable immunity from civil liability. What would you think if a major automobile manufacturer sold a car in this country and the brakes did not work? Should they be held liable? Few would question that. But if a gun manufacturer makes a gun that is inherently dangerous or negligently manufactured, that is dangerous in and of itself, the gun industry has bought immunity in the law at the Federal level so they cannot be sued for that dangerous product. Dangerous car? The manufacturer can be sued. Dangerous gun? No liability.

Current Federal law allows the firearm industry broad and unjustifiable immunity from civil liability, but that immunity is not unlimited. Firearms manufacturers do not have a license to recklessly peddle high-powered killing machines to those who should not have them. They should be held accountable, and, believe me, the Senate Judiciary Committee is going to look at that law.

These assault rifles, these weapons of war, are killing our kids and threatening our communities in Buffalo, Uvalde, Highland Park, and so many other places. The death tolls and the tragedies will continue to multiply until we act.

Madam President, I will close by saying today I saw our Governor, JB Pritzker, who came to the ceremony at the White House, together with Nancy Rotering, the mayor of Highland Park. I want to commend both of them for

their leadership, and I want to thank the first responders. One week ago, the night of the shooting, I finally made it to Highland Park and went through and thanked all of the first responders—the ATF agents who so quickly identified this rifle as belonging to the man who was ultimately charged. I say to my colleagues: Let's waste no time and put a director at ATF. We need him now more than ever.

And to all those who responded, gave up their Fourth of July and did what they were asked to do so many times, risked their own lives for the safety of others, our heartfelt thanks. We owe them everything. From the medical crews who turned around on an emergency basis and did such miraculous things for all the people who were injured, our thanks are there and will be forever.

But now it is our turn not just to praise those who showed courage but to show courage ourselves. Can we summon the courage to put an end to these military assault rifles and say that this is not part of any Second Amendment right in America; that these are killing weapons? Sadly, we have too many lost lives to show for it.

I will close with Cooper's picture again. This perfect little boy—8 years old—went to the Fourth of July parade to celebrate our country and be with his family, and his life will never be the same.

What are we going to do about it?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). The Senator from Illinois.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 676.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Owen Edward Herrnstadt, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2025.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 676, Owen Edward Herrnstadt, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2025.

Mazie K. Hirono, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Patrick J. Leahy, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Gary C. Peters, Elizabeth Warren, Jacky Rosen, Ben Ray Lujan, Sherrod Brown, Tina Smith.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 908.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Kate Elizabeth Heinzelman, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 908, Kate Elizabeth Heinzelman, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mazie K. Hirono, Brian Schatz, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Jacky Rosen, Tina Smith, Angus S. King, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Catherine Cortez Masto.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.